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CALIFORNIA LUMBER CUT FOR 1929 SHOWS INCREASE INSTEAD OF PROPHESIED DECREASE

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Analysis of the lumber cut for the California-Nevada Region for 1929, as recently released in a preliminary statement by the California Forest Experiment Station, shows a number of things interesting to the lumber industry and those concerned with timber resources. This preliminary statement is subject to correction by the final tabulations of the Census Bureau. The following table shows the production of lumber, lath and shingles, and split products, respectively. The Nevada cut is small and is included with the California totals to avoid disclosing the production of individual operators.

LUMBER PRODUCTION, CALIFORNIA AND NEVADA, 1929
(Mills cutting 50 M ft. b.m. or over)

Species	PINE REGION° Volume M ft:	%	REDWOOD REGION Volume M ft:	%	TOTALS Volume M ft:	%
Western yellow pine	857,697	53.6	-	-	857,697	41.
Sugar pine	327,690	22.4	-	-	327,690	15.
White fir	145,819	10.0	16,549	2.8	162,368	7.
Douglas fir	°°94,953	6.4	95,749	16.0	190,702	9.
Cedar	37,787	2.6	-	-	37,787	1.
Redwood	°°° 145	°°°°	485,461	81.1	485,606	23.
Spruce	-	-	400	.1	400	°°°
Lodgepole pine	144	°°°°	-	-	144	°°°
TOTALS	1,464,235	100.0	598,159	100.0	2,062,394	100.
Foreign and domestic hardwoods					411	
Total, Mills over 50 M					2,062,805	
34 softwood mills cutting less than 50 M each, produced in addition to above					706	
Total, softwoods and hardwoods					2,063,511	

° Does not include northern part of commercial California pine region in southern Oregon.

°° Includes a small volume of western hemlock cut from Pacific northwest logs.

°°° Bigtree (Sequoia washingtoniana). The redwood of the (coast) redwood region is Sequoia sempervirens.

°°°° Negligible.

There were also reported for the State 54 million lath and approximately 146 million shingles, besides split products, mine timbers and cordwood valued at $331,000.

This total lumber production is an increase over that of 1928 of 5.6 per cent. A preliminary statement by the Bureau of the Census indicates that the increase was general for both the North and South Pacific Coast regions and the Northern Rocky Mountains, as well as the Central States and the Northeastern States. Sharp decreases, on the other hand, were recorded in the Southern Rocky Mountain region and the Lake States, with smaller decreases throughout the Southern States. Strangely enough, the greatest percentage increase in cut took place in the prairie states from North Dakota to Oklahoma, which no one thinks of as lumber producing states. The amount of lumber produced there is not significant in the national total, in any case.

In respect to California the interesting point is that the entire increase occurred in the pine region, the redwood industry having decreased its cut by some 1.3 per cent. The increase in the pine region was therefore greater than that for the whole state by the equivalent of the redwood region decrease. The pine region increase amounted in volume to some 117.5 million board feet, or 8.7 percent of the total cut of that region. Such an increase would not be abnormal, except for the widespread distress of the lumber industry and the fact that in this region it commenced the year 1929 with the announced intention of reducing its cut.

The redwood region decrease was almost identical with the forecast made by the industry soon after the close of the season; but the pine region increase was considerably greater than that earlier forecast by this industry upon the basis of returns from a limited number of identical mills cutting in both 1928 and 1929. The reason for this discrepancy seems to be that in the pine region, as shown by an analysis of the individual returns, 93.2 million feet of the 1929 increase was accounted for by the excess of the cut of new mills and of mills not cutting in 1928 over the 1928 cut of mills cutting in that year but not in 1929. In the redwood region production for these two years, on the other hand, these two classes of mills almost exactly balanced each other.